

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 40

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Sergeant Major Barbaralien Banks.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army Sergeant Major Barbaralien Banks upon her death in Operation Enduring Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and the most profound sorrow that the Senate has learned of the tragic death of Sergeant Major Barbaralien Banks; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Banks was a native of New Orleans, graduating from Alfred Lawless High School, and later enlisting in the Army, following in the family tradition of military service set by several of her siblings; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Banks was a 17-year veteran of the Army, rising through the enlisted ranks to one of its highest positions attainable because of her total dedication to her duties and her steely resolve and discipline in carrying them out; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Banks served in numerous duty stations throughout her career, subsequently being stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii as a senior food management supervisor assigned to the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Banks was deployed to Afghanistan when elements of her division were assigned there, served honorably with the division's artillery assets; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Banks loved her family and friends back home and

1 missed them dearly during her tour of duty in Afghanistan, she also loved her country and  
2 felt it was her duty to be a part of the nation's war on terror and was honored to be fighting  
3 the enemies of America; and

4 WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Banks highest priority was accomplishing her unit's  
5 mission and getting the soldiers under her command safely back home to their families and  
6 loved ones once their tour was complete and in this endeavor, she was completely  
7 successful; and

8 WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Banks was 41 years old when she boarded a CH-47  
9 helicopter in Bagram with a squad of her soldiers on a supply and transport mission into  
10 Ghazni Province on April, 6, 2005; and

11 WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Banks' Chinook helicopter encountered some extremely  
12 severe weather about 100 miles southwest of Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, and the  
13 helicopter subsequently went down and all 18 personnel on board perished in the crash; and

14 WHEREAS, the loss of Sergeant Major Banks was almost more than her mother,  
15 Sylvia Clofer, and her two children could endure, her ultimate sacrifice for her country  
16 served to rally her community in support of the gallant efforts of the many troops serving  
17 in faraway duty stations; and

18 WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Banks will forever be remembered by her family,  
19 friends, and fellow soldiers as a truly dedicated leader and her sacrifice serves as a reminder  
20 that freedom is never free and Americans sometimes must fight to protect the freedoms and  
21 liberties its citizens now enjoy.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
23 does hereby express a profound sense of loss and sends its heartfelt condolences from a  
24 grateful state and nation to the family of United States Army Sergeant Major Barbaralien  
25 Banks.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be  
27 transmitted to the mother and children of Sergeant Major Barbaralien Banks.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

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DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Army Sergeant Major Barbaralien Banks.